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(54) **Large-diameter introducer sheath having hemostasis valve and removable steering mechanism**

(57) A catheter introducing system (10) includes an introducer catheter (12) comprising a flexible sheath (16) having a hemostasis valve (18) and an obturator (14) having a steering mechanism operated by a proximal actuator handle (22). The catheter introducer system will usually be introduced with the obturator inside of the flexible sheath so that the obturator can effect steering by laterally deflecting the distal end of the combined sheath and obturator. Such catheter introducing systems are particularly useful for large diameter sheaths which are not readily introduced over guide wires. A first exemplary hemostasis valve comprises a compressed foam insert having an axial lumen therein. A second exemplary hemostasis valve comprises an elastomeric insert which receives and seals over the catheter.

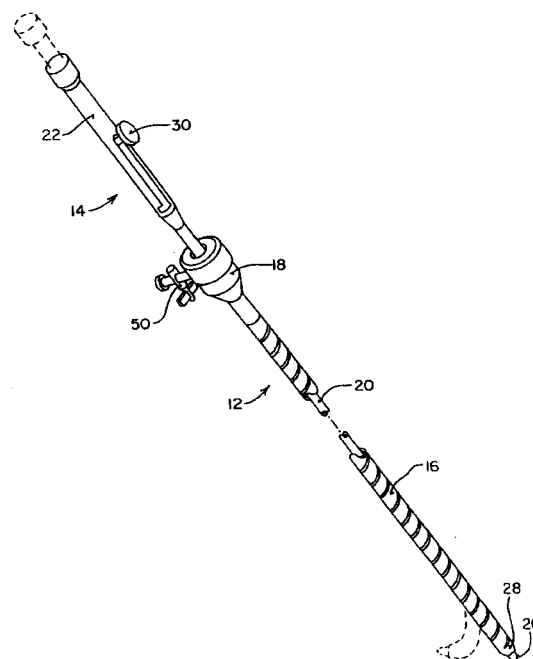


FIG. 2

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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A	US 4 610 674 A (TERUMO KABUSHIKI KAISHA) 9 September 1986 (1986-09-09) * column 5 * * column 7; figure 2 *	8	
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7) A61M A61N A61B
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 18 April 2001	Examiner Bichlmayer, K-P
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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